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Department of State
Operations Center

(GUYANA TASK FORCE)

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Situation Report No. 21

Situation in Guyana as of 0900 hours (EST), November 26, 1978

The last bodies were removed from the Jonestown area Saturday afternoon; a thorough search of the area was conducted before dark and no more bodies were discovered. The plane carrying the last of the bodies to the U.S. arrived at Dover AFB at 0310 (EST). A Dover military spokesman announced last night that 912 bodies had left Guyana. The body of one Guyanese citizen was held in Georgetown.

U.S. military retrograde operations have begun. The Embassy and U.S. Task Force are in the process of establishing how much military support will be required in the next few days to support the GOG in safeguarding assets found in the Jonestown area and support investigation activities. The Guyanese have requested U.S. helicopter support for 30 days to assist in maintaining necessary security in the Jonestown area. The Embassy has been authorized to lease warehouse space in which to store the movable property and effects.

B1/ES

The trial for Larry Layton, who is charged with murder as a result of the shooting at Port Kaituma, has been set for January 15, 1979. No trial is yet set for Charles Beikman.

The police have stated that one elderly People's Temple member is free to leave the country and he is departing today for New York on Pan American. The police have also indicated to the Embassy that other members who are not directly connected with the murders of the Ryan party or the Amos family will be released, but their names will not be known until Monday, November 27, at the earliest. The remaining members will be asked to stay in Guyana until the preliminary hearing scheduled for December 6 or 7.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 3/2/87
CONFIDENTIAL
GDS PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Arrangements are being made to airlift medical records recovered at Jonestown to Dover today. The Embassy also reports that the GOG will today lend us their immigration cards bearing the fingerprints of the Jonestown dead, and these will be sent to Dover as soon as they are available.

Yesterday the Guyanese ruling party newspaper carried an editorial and cartoon accusing the United States of being involved in an international conspiracy to discredit the People's Temple and its settlement in Guyana. Ambassador Burke has protested to the Guyanese Government saying that the vicious tone of the editorial was incomprehensible in view of the excellent record of cooperation between the U.S. and the GOG in coming to grips with a massive tragedy.

[redacted]

John A. Bushnell
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